

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AMONG WORKERS 12 MONTHS AFTER OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

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Background/Aims: After a traumatic event, a significant proportion of victims develop psychiatric disorders. This study aimed to determine the rates of chronic post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychiatric disorders 12 months after occupational injuries.

Methods: A two-staged survey study was conducted. The first stage of investigation involved a self-reported questionnaire including Brief Symptom Rating Scale (BSRS-50) and Post-traumatic Symptom Checklist (PTSC), which was sent to injured workers at 12 months after injury, for screening of mental conditions. Phone interview by a psychiatrist using Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI) was done among those who: (1) scored BSRS of ≥ 2 standard deviations higher than the norm; (2) reported "severe" level or higher among the three items of PTSC; or (3) reported "moderate" levels to two items of PTSC or more. The prevalence rates of PTSD and other psychiatric disorders were estimated by multiplying the percentage of diagnosed disorder among those completed MINI interview by the percentage fulfilling criteria for such interview.

Results: A total of 1233 workers completed the self-report questionnaire (response rate 27.9%). Among them, 167 (13.5%) fulfilled the criteria for MINI interview and were invited. A total of 106 (63.5%) completed the phone interview. The prevalence rates of chronic PTSD, major depression, comorbid PTSD and major depression, and either PTSD or major depression were 3.2%, 2.0%, 1.9%, and 3.3%, respectively.

Conclusion: This study showed that at 12 months after occupational injuries, a significant proportion of workers suffered from chronic psychiatric disorders.

Keywords: occupational injury, major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)